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APPROVAL OF UNDP/UNCDF ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF NIGER

IPF:(1992-1996) $51 400 000
(NER/87/C02) - Integrated Rural Development in Mayahi

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	16 December 1992
Expected duration:	Four years
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Planning
Proposed UNCDF contribution:	$5 593 100 Source of funds: General Resources
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 293 600 Source of funds: IPF

Project background

During the past 20 years, the combined effects of severe droughts and population pressure on the land have led to the degradation of the production base in Niger. In order to cope with an estimated population growth rate of about three percent p.a., farmers have been forced to double the total cultivated area by bringing more and more marginal lands into production and reducing the fallow period. This has resulted in a decline in agricultural productivity, social conflicts between livestock producers and farmers for the use of land for agriculture vis-a-vis grazing, and population migration to urban areas. The Government's approach to reverse this trend has been very sectoral and technocratic in nature. Populations, scarcely consulted during the conception of the various projects, were coerced into executing reforestation activities irrespective of their short-term needs. Furthermore, for the most part, these projects were implemented in isolation , hence failing to take advantage of the useful complementarities that could have existed among them. During the various consultations (Round Table, Interministerial Committee) that have led to the formulation of the policy paper for rural development (March, 1992) the Government has explicitly recognized the failure of such methods and suggested an integrated multisectoral approach to rural development and resource management.

In 1987, the Government requested UNDP/UNCDF assistance to address the above-mentioned long-term development constraints, using a multisectoral approach. To this end, UNCDF has identified the proposed project which conforms to the Government policy to promote better management of the natural resources in an integrated fashion through soil conservation, reforestation, intensification and diversification of agricultural and livestock production. This project will complement the actions being undertaken by the Government of Niger with the assistance of other agencies such as ILO, WFP, USAID-CARE, CLUSA, UNICEF and the French Cooperation Fund (FAC).

Description of project

The overall objective of this project is to improve the living conditions of the population of Mayahi by addressing both their long-term development constraints and their short-term needs.

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) restore a durable agroecological equilibrium; (b) increase both livestock and agricultural productivity; (c) promote non-agricultural income generating activities; (d) provide basic social services; (e) address the development constraints of Mayahi which cover about 6,200 Km2 in the South of Niger; (f) reverse the negative trend of increasingly using fragile land to maintain the level of production warranted by the high population growth; (g) contribute to the reforestation of about 10,000 hectares of land using tree species well known for their positive effect on soil regeneration; and (h) enable the participants in the reforestation programme to benefit from the project sponsored activities to intensify agricultural and livestock productions. Project activities will include: (a) introducing improved seeds along with fertilizers which have been successfully tested in similar environment; (b) implementing animal health and nutrition programmes in the villages; (c) assisting the villagers to improve the overall quality of their lives; (d) promoting non-agricultural activities by financing a training facility for artisans specialized in such activities as carpentry, brazing, masonry and tannery; (e) stimulating productive investments by microentrepreneurs through the setting up of a line of credit; (f) making use of the lessons learned from previous and existing activities; (g) confirming through prospective studies to be conducted with the assistance of the agronomic school of Niamey and Montpellier (France) the body of knowledge relative to the agricultural and livestock production systems, land use and land tenure arrangement and sociological links among the various populations in the region of Mahayi; and (h) complementing the baseline information needed to monitor the achievement of the project.

Inputs

UNCDF will finance planting of various tree species on some 10,000 hectares of land, intensification of agricultural and livestock production, promotion of micro-enterprises, the establishment of a line of credit and the improvement of social infrastructures; socio-economic studies; related equipment, infrastructure and services such as vehicles and their maintenance, office buildings and equipment; followup and supervisory missions, contingencies, support and agency costs.

UNDP will cover the costs of international and national personnel; international travel and in-country mission costs; training; equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

The Government will provide (US) $197,700 to cover the costs of salaries of national counterparts.

Financial data

	UNCDF	UNDP
	$	
Evaluation mission	146 000	-
Subcontract		
. hydraulic brigade	874 000	-
. NGO (CARE, VSF)	539 000	-
. UNICEF/WFP	118 000	-
. Institute & Photo	69 000	-
. Audit	40 000	-
. Village community	121 000	-
Technical Assistance		
Internal experts	-	603 000
Adm. Suppt. & Nat. Expert	-	217 000
Training	-	243 000
Expendable equipment	310 000	-
Non-expendable equipment	794 000	-
Construction	688 000	-
Vehicles	319 000	-
Credit	703 000	-
Contingencies	472 000	-
Agency costs (AOS)	210 000	108 000
Programme support	190 000	-
Sundries	-	123 000
Total	5 593 000	1 294 000